(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan provided for an annual equivalent growth rate of 2.5 per cent p.a. in value added in the agricultural sector and 5.5 per cent in value added in the manufacturing sector for the five year period as a whole

(c) The primary factor of shortfall in attaining growth rates was the adverse weather conditions in the country

(d) For attaining the stipulated growth rates priority is being given to agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure in the next two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Electronic voting machine

1641. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to amend the election law shortly to enable the use of electronic voting machines from the next general elections onwards;

(b) if so, by when the proposed amendments are likely to be made in the election law;

(c) whether the rural people in the country will be able to cast their votes through electronic machines; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Government have taken a preliminary decision to replace the ballot paper system with the electronic voting machines. However, Government are to finalise the other arrangements including the financial commitments involved in the matter. The proposal referred to in the question will arise only after the finalisation of the other arrangements.

(b) No time-table has been drawn up for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. The electronic voting machine is very simple to operate. It is not expected to pose any problems to the rural voter. In fact, when the machine was put to use earlier as an experimental measure, no difficulty was experienced by any one including the rural voter.

(d) Government is keen to introduce electronic voting machines at least in some of the key constituencies in the country, in view of certain definite advantages in this system over the existing ballot paper system.

Crash involving IAF fighter plane

1642. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated 13th January, 1988 to the effect that the Indian Airforce Fighter Plane crashed near Tejpur on the 12th January, 1988; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss of life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) An IAF aircraft crashed near Tejpur airfield on the 11th January 1988. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot of the aircraft was killed. There was minor damage to a hut and a woman was injured.

Regularisation of daily wages workers

1643. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily wages workers who have been regularised by the Ministry of Science and Technology during the last three years;